Growing Pneumoconiosis disease among coal miners

3185. SHRI RAMNARAYAN GOSWAMI : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the pneumoconiosis disease is growing among the coal miners in BCCL, ECL and in other coal companies;

(b) whether it is also a fact that proper and quick diagnosis is not done due to lack of modern equipments which is turning the medical checkups into a farce;

(c) if so, what action has been taken by Government; and

(d) whether Government contemplate any measures to improve the work environment, combat air pollution, adopt preventive and curative health system and change the method of producing soft coke by LTC plant ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COAL IN THE MINISTRY OF ENREGY (SHRI C. K. JAFFAR SHARIEF) : (a) No, Sir. There is no evidence to suggest that the disease is increasing among the coal miners.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Detailed environmental management plans form an integral part of all coal projects. These plans cover measures for combating pollution and improving the work environment. Continuous efforts are made to improve the medical care to the workers both in the preventive and curative aspects, and greater emphasis is being given to early detection of Pneumoconiosis cases through regular medical examination of the workers. Steps have also been initiated to replace the traditional soft coke making process by special smokeless fuel (SSF) plants, significantly minimising air pollution.

Demaged agricultural land under Mouza Nimcha in Raniganj Coalfield

3186. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that 65 plots of agricultural land under Mouza Nimcha in Raniganj Coalfield, West Bengal have been completely damaged and rendered unsuitable for agricultural purposes due to depillaring at Modern Satgram Colliery ECL;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a number of villagers of Nimcha have made a representation to the General Manager, ECL in this connection; and

(c) if so, what action has been taken to compensate the residents of the village ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COAL IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI C. K. JAFFAR SHARIEF) : (a) and (b). The residents of village Nimcha, Police Station Raniganj, Asansol had lodged a complaint with the General Manager, Eastern Coalfields Limited Satgram area in January, 1988 about the depillaring operations in Modern Satgram Colliery. About 22.33 acres of land are reported to be affected by the depillaring operations in the area.

(c) ECL has offered payment of crop compensation to the affected villagers at the existing rate of Rs. 275 per year per Bigha for 5 years in addition to levelling charges of the land. The villagers have not accepted the crop compensation offered by the company and want compensation at higher rates. The company has now set up a committee to look into the demand.

Ignoring of expertise of the National Laboratories by CIL

3187. DR. R. K. PODDAR : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to

(a) whether it is a fact that CIL ignores the National Laboratories and gets samples tested at private laboratories;